

of us has our own memories of the greatest Olympic moment, the Olympics gives this Nation the collective sense of oneness and pride that many times is lost in the worlds of professional sports and business and politics. Through the years, U.S. athletes have not only been outstanding standard-bearers of the Olympic ideal, but they have consistently been among the world's best in the athletic arena.

I had the distinct privilege to represent my country three times in the Olympic games. Each experience was different, but each represented the opportunity to put on the uniform that read USA. Not long before I attempted to qualify for the 1964 games in Tokyo, I was a 17-year-old high school student who did not really know what the Olympic games were all about. While many remember the 1968 games in Mexico City, the unrest and the civil rights movement, I also remember the countless world records and Olympic records set during the track and field competition. In 1972, I watched in horror as Israeli athletes tragically lost their lives to the hands of terrorists. The games did go on, most importantly to show that terrorists would not break the spirit of the Olympic ideal of a more peaceful world.

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In 1972, I also had a personal tragedy as the favorite in the 1500 meters for the United States; and with the world watching, I was tripped and fell and was not knocked out of the competition. I cannot begin to describe the anger and disappointment I felt at that moment. However, I no longer feel that was a tragedy. Rather, I point to that event as a turning point that taught me there was more to life than running. It brought to new life the importance of God and family in my life.

Every Olympian has their own stories to overcoming long odds and personal triumph, regardless of whether they stood on the podium and received a medal. It is my honor to stand on the House floor in their place.

Mr. Speaker, as we look toward the next century of the Olympic Games, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring our Olympic athletes and coaches along with their families and supporters.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, continuing my reservation, I would like to make a few additional points.

First, I would like to congratulate the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. RYUN), on behalf of all of us in the House for being a distinguished Olympian in and of himself, and it proves once again the greatness of this country, that a person like the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. RYUN) would get a chance to work in the Olympics and then come and be in the Olympics of legislation.

We are delighted. The Olympics obviously are a significant event for all nations to share in the accomplishments of men and women in the area of athletics.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the chairman of the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), for expediting this matter, and the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. RYUN) for bringing it to our attention. We strongheartedly endorse it.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 259

Whereas for over 100 years, the Olympic movement has built a more peaceful and better world by educating young people through amateur athletics, by bringing together athletes from many countries in friendly competition, and by forging new relationships bound by friendship, solidarity, and fair play;

Whereas the United States Olympic Committee is dedicated to coordinating and developing amateur athletic activity in the United States to foster productive working relationships among sports-related organizations;

Whereas the United States Olympic Committee promotes and supports amateur athletic activities involving the United States and foreign nations;

Whereas the United States Olympic Committee promotes and encourages physical fitness and public participation in amateur athletic activities;

Whereas the United States Olympic Committee assists organizations and persons concerned with sports in the development of athletic programs for amateur athletes;

Whereas the United States Olympic Committee protects the opportunity of each amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, and official to participate in amateur athletic competition;

Whereas athletes representing the United States at the Olympic games have achieved great success personally and for the Nation;

Whereas thousands of men and women of the United States are focusing their energy and skill on becoming part of the United States Olympic team and aspire to compete in the 2000 summer Olympic games in Sydney, Australia, and the 2002 winter Olympic games in Salt Lake City, Utah;

Whereas the Nation takes great pride in the qualities of commitment to excellence, grace under pressure, and good will toward other competitors exhibited by the athletes of the United States Olympic team; and

Whereas June 23 is the anniversary of the founding of the modern Olympic movement, representing the date on which the Congress of Paris approved the proposal of Pierre de Coubertin to found the modern Olympics: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of the Olympics;

(2) calls upon the President to issue a proclamation recognizing the anniversary of the founding of the modern Olympic movement; and

(3) calls upon the people of the United States to observe such anniversary with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 259.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE CONCERNING TROUBLED PRE-ELECTION PERIOD IN REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on International Relations be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 500) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the violence, breakdown of rule of law, and troubled pre-election period in the Republic of Zimbabwe, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I believe, again, the House needs to understand why we are proceeding with this bill in an expeditious manner.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I yield to the gentleman from New York for an explanation.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Zimbabwe will go to the polls next weekend to elect their parliament. Since its independence 20 years ago, Zimbabwe has been, in effect, a one-party state. The liberation party of President Robert Mugabe, which emerged from a war, for majority war with slogans shouting for equality and justice, has become thoroughly corrupted by the absolute power that it has enjoyed these past 2 decades.

Change is now at hand. The people of Zimbabwe are patient, but their patience appears to have come to an end. Candidates from parliament for the opposition parties have registered in record numbers. The leading opposition party appears to have overwhelming support among the urban populations of Zimbabwe.

But President Mugabe and his party cronies who have grown rich in government do not want to accept an honest